



CASTROL CANADIAN TOURING CARS TAKE IT TO THE STREETS

July 12, 2009 - Toronto, Ontario

The Castrol Canadian Touring Car Championship presented by Toyo Tires brought 43 of Canada's best drivers out for Round 5 of the series on the famed Toronto street course for a pair of races during the Honda Indy Toronto in the Acura Sports Car Challenge with their two distinct classes, Touring and Super Touring.

During Saturday's 30-minute qualifying heat race Super Touring Class points leader Richard Boake piloting his potent Subaru WRX STi attempted to defend his points lead against the likes of NorthWest Value Partners team mates Greg Pootmans & Paul Dalla Lana as well as Lombardi Honda's Nick Wittmer. To add insult to injury, Pootmans added another much needed five points to his overall total for an outstanding pole position qualifying time.

After a rather difficult qualifying session late Friday afternoon, Boake's Subaru was well off the mark that would necessitate the transplant of another engine prior to the start of Saturday's race.

42 cars took the green flag and made their way around the technical and extremely rough track for what was to be an outstanding performance of skill and agility on every driver's part. Unfortunately for Boake & Lexus driver Andrew Wojteczko their race would be short lived when they came together on lap one and were sidelined with extensive damage to both cars.

Brampton Ontario's Bob Attrell & Jonathan Rashleigh piloting the "twin" Hyundai Genesis coupes were also sidelined with electrical failures early in the race that would require a full course yellow to allow safety teams to tow the cars out of harms way.

In the highly competitive Touring Class, Thornhill native Anthony Rapone pulled out all the stops in his Honda Civic Si and was able to hold third place points driver Alain Lauziere's MINI Cooper and Quebec's Jocelyn Fecteau at bay for the entire 17 lap race. Second in the points race driver Nigel Heron was devastated when during the midway point of the race his Acura Integra's engine let go stranding him out on the track.

The balance of the field had intense battles the length of the finishing order as each driver attempted to gain as many participation and position points in the championship.

The feature race will begin at 10:00am Sunday for 30 minutes where the two classes will be putting on the "best show" of the weekend with no less than 40 cars.

Saturdays Race results:

Super Touring Class

1st Place Greg Pootmans BMW
2nd Place Kuno Wittmer Honda
3rd Place Etienne Borgeat BMW
4th Place Nick Wittmer Honda
5th Place Alex Healy Acura RSX

Touring Class Results

1st Place Anthony Rapone Honda
2nd Place Alain Lauziere MINI Cooper
3rd Place Jocelyn Fecteau Toyota
4th Place Scott Nicol Honda
5th Place Tom Kwok Honda

Toronto race fans were treated to Canada's Best Drivers Racing Today's Hottest Touring Cars during Sunday's Honda Indy Toronto in the Acura Sports Car Challenge. The 40 car field of the Castrol Canadian Touring Car Championship presented by Toyo Tires took to the track for an early morning 30 minute feature support race.

Northwest Value Partners teammates Greg Pootmans & Paul Dalla led the field to the green flag start after the customary two-pace laps into the tight turn-one with drivers jockeying for position. The race was running smoothly for all competitors for the first three laps when the car 56 driven by Rob McAuley had a hard brush with the pit entrance wall sidelining him and his BMW for the balance of the 19-lap race.

Championship points leader Richard Boake was retired from the race with mechanical issues in lap nine dashing any hopes of gaining valuable points to stay ahead of Pootmans who now takes over the lead in the Super Touring class.

GT Racing's Dalla Lana couldn't hold off the charging Lombardi Honda's Wittmer brothers, Nick & Kuno as they put the pressure on early relegating Dalla Lana to seventh place. Lap after lap Nick gave it everything he had to catch Pootmans but time had run out. A truly impressive "hard charger" drive for AutoAnalyser's Andrew Wojteczko and his Lexus IS300 with as flawless run and charged from his 37th position on the start to finish 5th overall.

Touring class points leader Anthony Rapone piloted his Durabond Products sponsored Honda Civic Si flawlessly for the entire race just ahead of rival Alain Lauziere's MINI Cooper and Rapone's teammate Scot Nicol. With the checkered flag in sight rounding corner 11 Rapone missed his turn in to the apex and causing his car to slam into the concrete wall on driver's right then careened across the track slamming into the outside wall. Almost immediately collecting himself Rapone got on the throttle hard and attempted to hold off the hard charging Lauziere just seconds behind him to no avail.

During the post race podium ceremonies Rapone admitted it was "complete driver error" and he couldn't believe he gave away the lead on the last corner. Lauziere, being the diplomat that he's known for thanked Rapone for "throwing away" his race win allowing him the top spot on the podium.

The drivers now will go back to their shops and make the necessary repairs for the 6th round of the championship at Ottawa's Calabogie Motorsports Park on July 25-26 2009.

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Super Touring Class

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2nd Place Nick Wittmer Honda
3rd Place Kuno Wittmer Honda
4th Place Alex Healy Acura RSX
5th Place Andrew Wojteczko Lexus

Touring Class Results

1st Place Alain Lauziere MINI Cooper
2nd Place Anthony Rapone Honda
3rd Place Scott Nicol Honda
4th Place Tom Kwok Honda
5th Place Brad Young Honda